



awib review

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“Alaska’s Jobs for Alaska’s People”

At the request of Governor Frank Murkowski and Labor Commissioner Greg O’Claray, Commonwealth North studied workforce development in Alaska and produced a comprehensive overview of the system, “Alaska’s Jobs for Alaska’s People.” The report has several strong recommendations for improving the workforce development system in Alaska. Alice Galvin, AWIB’s Chair, and Jeff Staser, Director of the Denali Commission, co-chaired the effort. The report can be viewed at Commonwealth North’s Website:
<http://www.commonwealthnorth.org/>

“The report ‘Alaska’s Jobs for Alaska’s People’ is a solid basis for action, and is well aligned with the work that we have started that will strengthen workforce investment efforts and ensure they are a key part of Alaska’s economic development.”
 Commissioner Greg O’Claray

Workforce Board Restructuring

Governor Frank Murkowski has determined there should be some restructuring of the workforce investment system in Alaska to improve effectiveness, reduce costs, increase focus on performance and strengthen local employer commitment.

The Governor asked the Alaska Workforce Investment Board to reshape the board structure and seek a single-state designation. This means there would only be one board, serving as both the state and local workforce investment body.

The executive committees of the current three boards met in March to review the Governor’s proposal. They discussed accountability, potential transition issues, regional councils,

Alaska’s workforce system and its historical accomplishments, and the vision of what a new board would look like.

The Governor recently signed Administrative Order 210 to help effect the change, and Senate Bill 192 was passed by the legislature, removing local workforce investment board language from the statute. The transition is in progress and board members will be kept apprised of developments as they occur.

WIA Unified Plan Modifications and AWIB Approves Negotiated Performance Targets

Alaska’s WIA Unified Plan has been modified and the draft changes are available for review and comment on our Website (<http://labor.state.ak.us/awib/>). You may also obtain a copy by contacting the AWIB office.

The AWIB, through its Executive Committee, approved the WIA federally negotiated performance measures for PY 2003 and 2004. These targets were worked out based on previous performance by the Alaska Department of Labor. They have been added to the Plan Modification.

Training Priorities

The AWIB compiles a priority list each year based on economic, employment, and other relevant data in order to focus training efforts on critical workforce needs and employment opportunities for participants in the Alaska technical and vocational education program.

Health Care was identified as the highest priority industry based on extreme needs and the emphasis already declared by the Murkowski administration. Construction, Information Technology and Transportation continue to be priorities based primarily on their high growth potential. Seafood, Education and Hospitality are

new additions to the priority list based on their fit for new statewide strategies.

Utilizing information provided by the DOL&WD's Research & Analysis Section, highest need clusters were formed. The proposed priority industries were selected based on growth potential, statewide impact and availability of jobs, the accessibility of career ladders within an industry and the level of non-resident hires three-tier system was recommended based on these multiple criteria. The draft priority list is on our Website and available for comment.

Clearinghouse

The InfoBase portion of the workforce development clearinghouse project is in formal development.

The timeframe for the first of three phases puts the public launch of Clearinghouse v.1.0.0 online in early 2004. Phase One is to include comprehensive, integrated databases of funding sources and training providers as well as provide a portal to all other Alaska workforce-related issues, organizations, and resources. Individual agencies and organizations will be able to update their own data in real-time on the Web.

Phases Two and Three will see the addition of employers, placement tools, job/training seeker services, career guidance, performance evaluation, and skills bank elements.

The culmination of our effort will be a completely aligned, statewide, workforce development system fully integrated with relevant education and economic development components, accessible to all interested stakeholders via the Internet.

Welcome Lt. Governor, New Commissioners and Board Members

Lt. Governor Loren Leman is a welcome addition to the Alaska Workforce Investment Board. The board also welcomes three new commissioners, including **Greg O'Claray**, Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development (the AWIB's home department); **Joel Gilbertson**, Commissioner of Health & Social Services; **Edgar Blatchford**, Commissioner of Community & Economic Development, and **Roger Sampson**,

Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development. Deputy Commissioner of Labor & Workforce Development **Ed Fisher** has taken a special interest in the AWIB and brings a fresh perspective and many talents.

Other new board members include **Andy Baker** (Baker Aviation in Kotzebue); **Richard "Dick" Cattanach** (Associated General Contractors of Alaska); **Laraine Derr** (Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association); Major General **Mark Hamilton** (President of University of Alaska); **Chris Hayes**, (representing community-based organizations); **Ramona "Mona" McAleese** (ADA Partners); and **David Stone** (Alaska Electric Light & Power).

Kristen Forrester (Mat-Su Borough School District); **Alice Galvin** (BP Exploration), **JoAnn McDowell** (Prince William Sound Community College), **Barbara Stallone** (FedEx), **Colleen Ward** (XCEL) and **J. C. Wingfield** (Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 375) were reappointed to the board.

Three Organized Labor seats, four Private Sector seats and one Native Organization representing Employment & Training remain to be filled. To be considered, candidates should send a resume and cover letter to the Governor's Boards and Commissions Office. The board is particularly interested in regional representation, diversity, and leaders in the private sector and/or communities.

Welcome New Staff

As most of you know, **Kitty Farnham** was hired in February as the Executive Director of the AWIB and as Director of the new Division of Business Partnerships (DBP). DBP brings the board together with the Workforce Investment Office, the Balance of State central office and the state's two training institutions, Alaska Vocational Technical Education Center and the Alaska Technical Center (Kotz Tech).

Christine Sanderford was hired in December as AWIB's liaison to the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE). Christine is responsible for authorizations and exemptions of vocational training schools, which is required for any schools wishing to be designated as an "eligible training provider."

John Henry Pratt joined the AWIB in March. John coordinates the WorkStar program and is presently developing the workforce investment system's information clearinghouse. John also helped publish this year's program performance report (PY 2001).

Karen Turner is a project coordinator currently working with the joint committees on setting new priorities for industry training. The proposed 2004 priority list is now available for public comment. Karen is also working with transportation and hospitality industries to help them create industry consortia.

Patti Swenson is AWIB's new coordinator of health care initiatives. Patti has 13 years experience as a legislative aide and is also a registered nurse. Her health and legislative experience will be a valuable resource for the board.

Pennelope Goforth joined the AWIB Board staff in mid-May. She is primarily responsible for communications strategies and projects including the Division of Business Partnerships Intranet. An Employment Analyst III and Publication Specialist III, she edits, writes and develops material for the Division and for the AWIB.

Sharron Laster is our new front desk person. She is part of the Alaska Workforce Investment Office team and is taking on additional duties. The AWIO is trading space with DVR and will be relocated to our 6th & K location in the next two weeks.

Fond Farewells

2003 has been a time of dramatic transition for our board. **Linda Hulbert** resigned as a board member in March. Linda was appointed to the AWIB (then AHRIC) at its inception in October 1995, but her history with Alaska and workforce training issues goes back to the 1960s. Her historical knowledge, private sector perspective and passionate participation are missed already.

Additionally, **Gary Brooks, Fred Esposito, Duane French, JoAnn Henderson, Kay Hoch, Sharon Olsen, Wendy Redman, Tim Sharp** and **Fred Smith** have resigned from the board. Together, they represent many years of volunteer

service to the Alaska workforce, and they deserve much credit and thanks for their selfless efforts.

Executive Director **Jim Sanders** retired from state service at the end of January. Jim began work with the board in December 2000, after more than 20 years of service with other state agencies. His expertise with workforce training and rural Alaska, his business management skills and coalition building talents brought real and lasting contributions to the board.

Jack Heesch, staff to the board since 1999, was the board's National Skills Standards coordinator, the AWIB's liaison to our partner organizations and staffed two committees. Jack resigned effective March 31. Jack's energy & enthusiasm for workforce development issues served the board well.

Mike Gutierrez, staff to the board, resigned March 7. Mike served as WorkStar Coordinator and was key staff to the Evaluation & Assessment Committee. His calm demeanor and legislative knowledge were real assets to the board.

Mary Heller, our administrative assistant, is leaving the AWIB at the end of June. She has worked tirelessly and well not only for AWIB but also for the Alaska State Independent Living Council. Unfortunately, her position is being moved to Juneau. We'll miss her greatly.

Vocational/Technical Education News

AWIB staff John Mayer visited two Carl Perkins grantees in April, the Tanana Valley Campus of UAF and the Delta/Greely School District. Tanana Valley is excited about their upcoming move next year to a new building, Fairbanks' old federal courthouse. (Contingent on capital budget funds.) This will provide them with adequate space and updated classrooms and labs for their current programs. They expressed a concern, however, about its being full at move-in, leaving little space for program expansion. Nonetheless, it will be a significant upgrade from their current facilities.

Delta/Greely is implementing a new program in construction education this year tied to the National Center for Construction and Education Research standards. On a related note, the Tech Pogo mine expects to start construction this

coming winter and the Delta Mine Training Center (DMTC) will be working at capacity to provide a trained workforce of Alaskans. The company has committed to regional and state hire and has been working in partnership with the DMTC. Approximately 500 persons will be employed during the mine's construction phase and about 300 during the mining phase.

On April 16-19 the Alaska Association for Career and Technical Education hosted a Region V conference at Girdwood, representing 15 western states. In addition to Alaska presenters Governor Jay Hammond, Father Michael Oleska, and Dr. Lynne Curry, the national ACTE president-elect, Mike Gillispie, helped facilitate the meeting and Washington, D.C. attorney Michael Brustein assessed the national legislative prospects for Perkins. His best guess is that the reauthorization battle will be delayed until federal fiscal year 2005, and it will operate on a continuation basis until then. In addition to the general session presentations mentioned above, many Alaskans presented at the breakouts, and it was great to see our local talent shine as part of this multi-state get-together.

Eligible Training Provider List

In order to receive WIA training grants post-secondary schools must apply for and be authorized or exempted as an "eligible provider." Among the schools that have been approved and added to the Eligible Training Provider list since December are Black Rapids Timber Framing School; Fairbanks Flight Training, Wesley Rehabilitation Center and Wyatt Enterprises. During this timeframe, ACPE has also evaluated and updated the status of many other schools. The list is available on our Website.

New and Not So New Publications

(All available or soon to be available on our Website: <http://labor.state.ak.us/awib/>)

Executive Committee Minutes

(May 22, 2003)

Proposed Unified Plan Modifications

(and link for comments)

Proposed FY 2003-2004 Priority List for Training (and link for comments)

AWIB Minutes

(February 26-27, 2003)

Training Program Performance PY2001 Report

The 2001 Training Program Performance Report (April 2003)

Report to the Legislature – The State Training & Employment Program (February 2003)

WIA Title 1-B Annual Report

The federal annual report on WIA Title 1-B programs (December 6, 2002.)

Good Reading!

This is an informative 'must read' given the performance priorities we face in Alaska, and may help guide the board in its work to reinforce these principles and to strengthen the accountability of our system.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2004/performance.html>

You may also find *Keeping America in Business* valuable.

<http://www.americanassembly.org/wfi/KeepingAmericaInBusiness.pdf>

Mark Your Calendar:

- ✓ **June 13** ~ Deadline for comments to Alaska's Unified Plan Modifications.
- ✓ **June 18, 2003**, 12 Noon ~ Executive Committee Teleconference
- ✓ **June 24, 2003** ~ State Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, Alyeska
- ✓ **July 16 & 17, 2003** ~ AWIB Meeting in Anchorage

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